However, Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts are entitled to very much liberalized perquisites and allowances, as compared to the Secretaries.

In the year 2005, the High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Act, 2006 has been enacted that provided for the following:

(i) evision in rate of sumptuary allowance admissible to the Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts.

(ii) Improvement in the retirement benefits of Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts—Revision of pension, family pension etc., of Judges of High Courts and Supreme Court.

(iii) Addition of a period of ten years to the qualifying period of service for pension of a Judge of the Supreme Court who is directly appointed from the Bar under article 124 (3) (b) of the Constitution, so that they receive substantial pension *vis-a-vis* the other judges of Supreme Court who are elevated from the High Courts.

Pending cases in Allahabad High Court

†2824. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending in Allahabad High Court for 5, 10, 15 and 20 years;

(b) the number of such cases which have been accepted for second appeal but are pending for 5, 10 and 15 years due to non hearing in such cases; and

(c) the details of the steps Government are taking to dispose of these pending cases and by when such cases would be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) As per information available in the Department, 165317 cases for more than five years, 172112 cases for more than ten years and 54234 cases for more than twenty years are pending in the Allahabad High Court.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) 6548 cases for five years, 7854 cases for ten years and 35871 cases for more than ten years, which have been accepted for second appeal are pending.

(c) The Central Government has been periodically monitoring the pendency position in various courts. The steps taken for speedy disposal of pending cases, include timely filling the vacancies of judges, increasing the judge strength, grouping of cases involving common questions of law, constitution of specialized benches, organizing Lok Adalats at regular intervals, encouraging alternative modes of dispute resolution like negotiation, mediation and arbitration and setting up of special tribunals like Central Administrative Tribunals, State Administrative Tribunals, Income Tax Appellate Tribunals, Family Courts, Labour Courts etc.

Mining in Talcher and IB valley

†2825. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of the wizards caused due to indiscriminate and open cast mining in Talcher and IB Valley of Orissa and damage of upper fertile crust of soil, grass, herbs and continuous water sources as a result of dumping the waste material extracted from mining;

(b) if so the efforts made by Government to protect the soil, vegetable, and environment cycle from damage and the outcome thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) As per information available from the Ministry of Coal, extraction of coal in that open cast projects of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited is being done as per the approved plan of Ministry of coal and Environment Management Plan clearance from Ministry of Environment and Forests. The overburden extracted for coal mining is being dumped within the mining lease-hold area as per approved plan and these are technically and biologically reclaimed with sufficient afforestration to increase green cover including creation of water body for helping recharge of ground water in the mined area.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.